Workplace Fatalities



9/10/98 Struck in Head

A 29-years old, truck driver, was killed when one piece of plastic pipe rolled off a truck bed, and struck him in the head. pipe was 50 feet long, 1-5/8" thick, and weighed approximately 5000 pounds. The victim had removed all but one strap securing the load, moved the truck, and was in the process of removing the remaining strap. The load shifted, rolling the pipe off the truck, and onto the victim. A lift truck was not in position to stop the rolling pipe.

Questions to ask?

- Has your company instituted adequate unloading procedures?
- Are loads properly blocked?
- If lift trucks are used as part of the procedure, are they always in place to protect the worker in the event that a load shifts?